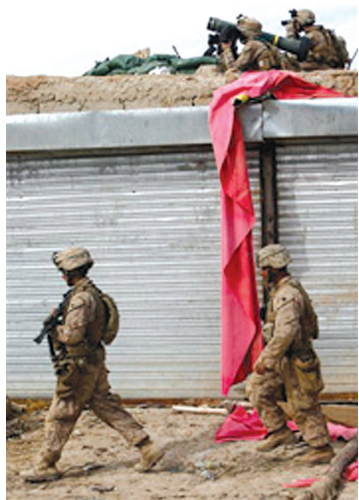


**INSIDE TODAY
 WORLD NEWS**

TALIBAN ASSAULT



U.S. soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, walk past closed shops during a patrol West of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. This unit is operating in support of a planned U.S. Marine offensive against the Taliban in Marjah area.

Read more on Page A8

**SPORTS NEWS
 OLYMPIC TRAGEDY**



Nodar Kumaritashvili of Georgia is seen just before crashing during a training run for the men's singles luge at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010.

Read more on Page A12

**Price of a barrel
 of petroleum**
US\$ 74.13
 ↓ 1.15



People gather on the national day of mourning outside the earthquake damaged National Palace in Port-au-Prince, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. Thousands gathered one month after the deadly quake that left the Caribbean country struggling for survival.

Associated Press

Haitians hold national day of mourning on quake anniversary

PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Atop the rubble of destroyed churches, in parks and on sidewalks, thousands of Haitians prayed Friday in a national day of mourning, one month after a magnitude-7 earthquake killed more than 200,000 and left this Caribbean country struggling for survival.

Leaders of Haiti's two official religions — a Catholic bishop and the head of the Voodoo priests — joined Protestant ministers for a prayer service in the shade of mimosa trees

near the shattered National Palace. A Muslim preacher also attended.

Men wore black armbands of mourning, girls frilly white dresses. Among them were earthquake amputees in wheelchairs, casts and hobbling on crutches.

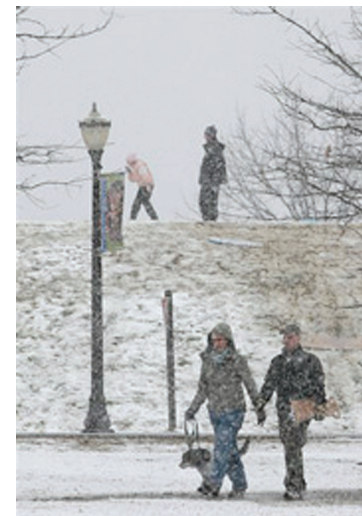
President Rene Preval wept during the service, his black-clad wife trying to console him.

"The pain is too heavy — words cannot describe it," Preval said in one of the first major public addresses he has made in weeks.

Preval said he was there as

a father — not the president — but urged people to keep supporting the government. He made no mention of the many small demonstrations this week demanding that he resign over a lack of leadership in the wake of the crisis.

Continued on Page 9



A rare snow day graces Montgomery, Ala., as residents play and walk through the Wynton Blount Cultural Park on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010.

Associated Press

Rare snowflakes start falling in South

MELISSA NELSON

Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Florida (AP) — A rare snowstorm was moving through the U.S. Deep South Friday, including some places that haven't seen snow in a decade or longer.

Continued on Page 5

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Bill Clinton returns home after heart procedure

JIM FITZGERALD,
Associated Press Writers
CHAPPAQUA, New York

(AP) — Former President Bill Clinton was recovering at his suburban home Friday with his

wife after leaving a Manhattan hospital where he underwent a heart procedure.



Former U.S. President and UN Special Envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton gestures during his speech on Haiti in Davos, Switzerland, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. The World Economic Forum is turning toward earthquake-ravaged Haiti and steering Africa to prosperity as more world leaders arrive for the annual event in this Swiss Alpine resort.

Associated Press

Clinton adviser Douglas Band said in a statement that Clinton left New York Presbyterian Hospital “in excellent health.”

“He looks forward in the days ahead to getting back to the work of his Foundation, and to Haiti relief and recovery efforts,” it said.

Three black sport utility vehicles with tinted windows arrived around 7:45 a.m. Friday and pulled through the high

gates at the Clintons’ home in Chappaqua, about 35 miles north of New York City.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Clinton’s wife, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is at the home. Terry McAuliffe, the former Democratic National Committee chairman and a close friend of the Clintons, told CBS television that he expects Clinton will get back to work quickly.

“If I know President Clinton, he’ll be on the phone ... calling people asking for more help for Haiti and where he can get pickup trucks so they can deliver food or generators. If I know Bill Clinton, he’ll be raring to go in about 35 minutes,” McAuliffe said.

Clinton, 63, could be back at work as soon as Monday, cardiologist Allan Schwartz said previously.

Clinton had quadruple bypass surgery at the same hospital more than five years ago, and returned Thursday to have a clogged heart artery opened after suffering discomfort in his chest. Two stents resembling tiny mesh scaffolds were placed inside the artery as part of a medical procedure that is common for people with severe heart disease. □

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U.S. poll finds strong anti-Washington feeling

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Extremely high anti-incumbent feelings toward Congress are shaping potentially brutal U.S. elections in November that typically see losses for the party that controls the White House, a poll found. Those anti-incumbent feelings match the high levels of 2006 and 1994 — both years when control of Congress changed hands.

A Pew Research Center poll of registered voters released Friday found just fewer than half of voters would like to see their current member of Congress win another term and a fifth of voters said they would consider their vote as one against President Barack Obama.

With the struggling economy, unemployment at 9.7 percent and billions of taxpayer dollars used to bail out Wall Street, populist anger toward Washington is setting up an election year when voters have a strong “throw-the-bums-out” sentiment.

In recent such elections, known as midterms because they take place in the middle of a president’s four-year term, the party in control of the White House has seen an average of 28 seats lost in the U.S. House, where every seat is up for grabs. President Bill Clinton suffered a devastating blow in 1994, handing

Republicans Congress and setting back his agenda.

Privately, Democrats fear history could repeat itself in the midterm elections and are thankful Obama does not face voters until 2012. The public’s favorable opinions of Republicans have increased by 6 percentage points from late August and are now almost at the same level as Democrats.

The Pew poll did have a few bright spots for Obama, who has seen his own popularity remain flat for months, with 49 percent approving of his job performance as he heads into his second year in office.

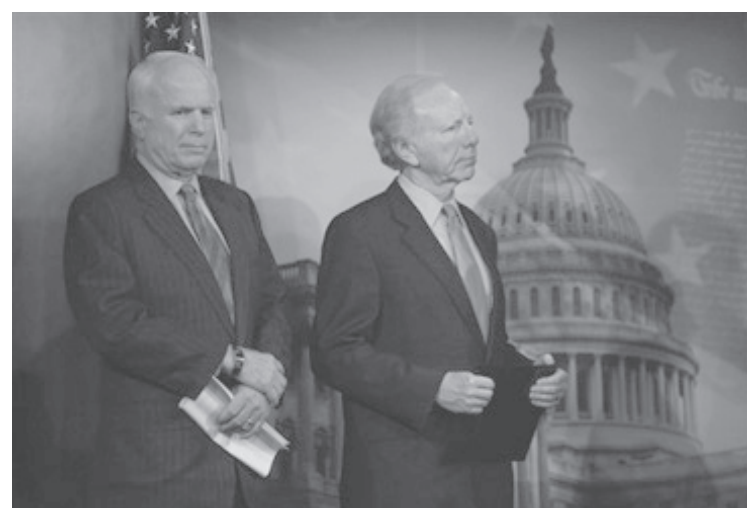
In 2006, when President George W. Bush’s Republicans lost control of Congress, 35 percent said they were rebuking Bush with their vote in a poll just before the midterms, compared to 20 percent who say the same about Obama now. And Democrats retain an advantage over Republicans on who can do a better job on issues like education, health care and energy problems. But the two parties are ranked about even when it comes to handling the economy, a top issue. The Pew poll finds anti-incumbent sentiment is at least as extensive today it was during the 2006 and 1994 campaigns. Even so, by the end of the 2006 campaign, 55 percent of voters wanted their own representative re-elected.

Almost four years later, that number is 49 percent.

Part of the anti-incumbent sentiment is reflected in the so-called “tea party” movement that has called for reduced government, lower taxes and generally libertarian or conservative principles. While it is a rallying cry for those frustrated Americans, a large plurality — 42 percent — said they have not heard of the movement or lack an opinion about it.

The stalled health care overhaul also is frustrating voters.

More Americans oppose the health bills than support them by a 50 percent to 38 percent margin. Inaction, though, is not their preferred path: six in 10 either favor the current health care bills or would



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., attend a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010, to discuss Iran.

Associated Press

prefer that Congress keep working on another health care bill.

Pew interviewed 1,383 adults by cell or home phone, including 1,129 registered

voters, from Feb. 3-9. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, both for the entire sample and for registered voters. □



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In this Jan. 20, 2009 file photograph provided by Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. right, poses for a picture with his son, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., at the inauguration of President Barack Obama at the Capitol in Washington. It was never really a smooth fit, politics and Patrick Kennedy, the latest and for now the last in the long line of Kennedys at the heart of American political life.

Associated Press

Kennedy will not seek re-election, ending an era

ANDREW MIGA
MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Patrick Kennedy's decision not to seek re-election will leave Washington without a Kennedy in political office for the first time in more than 60 years. The Democrat's term ends early next year but he says in a television message viewed by The Associated Press on Thursday that his life is "taking a new direction" and he will not seek a ninth term. The video was provided to the AP by Kennedy's congressional office.

The 42-year-old son of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy

does not give a reason for the decision but says it has been a difficult few years for many people and he mentions the death in August of his father. "Illness took the life of my most cherished mentor and confidante, my ultimate source of spirit and strength," he said, as a black-and-white photo of him as a boy sailing with his father appeared on the screen. "From the countless lives he lifted, to the American promise he helped shape, my father taught me that politics at its very core was about serving others."

The announcement is to air Sunday on television stations in the state of Rhode Island, which Patrick Kennedy

represents.

The decision comes less than a month after a stunning upset by Republican Scott Brown in the race for the Massachusetts Senate seat Kennedy's father held for almost half a century. The victory deprived Democrats of a supermajority 60 votes in the 100-member Senate needed to overcome Republican procedural obstacles.

Mark Weiner, a major Democratic fundraiser in Rhode Island and one of Kennedy's top financial backers, said he had spoken with Kennedy recently, and that his father's death had taken an enormous toll.

"It's tough to get up and go to work every day when your partner is not there," Weiner said. "I think he just had a broken heart after his father passed away."

Kennedy said in his ad that he remained committed to public service, and he thanked Rhode Island voters for supporting him through ups and downs. He has been in and out of treatment for substance abuse since crashing his car outside the U.S Capitol in 2006. Still, he has been comfortably re-elected twice since then, after making mental health care his signature issue in Washington.

"When I made missteps or suffered setbacks, you responded not with contempt, but compassion," he said. "Thank you for all the times you lifted me up, pushed me forward and filled my heart with hope."

A Kennedy has served in elected office in Washington ever since Patrick Kennedy's uncle, John F. Kennedy, was elected to Congress from Massachusetts in 1946. He later became president. □

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RARE SNOWFLAKES

Continued from Front Page

Flakes were falling — or threatened — Friday from Texas to northern Florida and then up along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. The Dallas area had its snowiest winter in 32 seasons, with more than a foot of snow. The storm was blamed for nearly 200 traffic accidents, power outages for thousands of people and hundreds of canceled flights.

Far less snow was falling in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The southern snowstorm comes the same week that eastern cities like Washington and Philadelphia were digging out from back-to-back blizzards that shut down federal government offices in the U.S. capital for four days. Though the snowfall in the South is much less than that up north, the effect was still crippling for states that do not have the equipment or experience to deal with snow. Just the anticipation of 1 inch of snow was enough to close schools in northern Florida, while classes also were canceled in parts of Alabama. Nearly two-dozen school districts closed across Georgia because of the snow forecast. American Airlines canceled about 240 flights Friday, mainly at its hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, airline spokesman Steve Schlachter said. In Atlanta, Delta Air Lines canceled 1,100 flights for Friday in anticipation of as much as 2 inches of snow.

Several oceanside communities in South Carolina including Charleston — which hasn't seen recorded snowfall since January 2000 — could see between 2 and 4 inches of snow, said Jonathan Lamb, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Charleston.

And as much as 3 inches could hit Savannah, Georgia, where snow was last traced in February 1996 — only 0.2 inches, Lamb said. It's been two decades since Georgia's oldest city had any notable accumulation, with 3.6 inches falling in December 1989. Normally, temperatures in February don't dip below freezing. □

Dylan Smith, 10, of Jackson, Miss., shows good form as he works on his batting swing in the snow early Friday morning, Feb. 12, 2010. Much of Mississippi is expected to receive several inches of snow by mid-morning, and Gov. Haley Barbour declared a state of emergency on Thursday in anticipation of the winter storm which is expected to force dozens of school cancellations and close some businesses.

Associated Press



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Abbas aide in sex tape scandal urged to quit

**KARIN LAUB
MOHAMMED
DARAGHMEH**

Associated Press Writers

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— As sex tapes go, it's fairly tame — a man gets undressed in a bedroom, slides under the covers, plumps the pillows and

calls to a woman to join him.

But the man is a top aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and a former Palestinian intelligence official who secretly recorded the scene alleges the aide tried to trade his influence for sex.

The footage of the aide, Rafiq

Husseini, has sent shock waves through conservative Palestinian society since it was broadcast on Israeli TV earlier this week.

It has left the Palestinian leader scrambling for a response and his rivals from the Islamic militant group Hamas gloating. Even though the Palestinian Authority has won international praise for cleaning up official corruption that was rampant under the late Yasser Arafat, Abbas' Fatah movement



In this file photo taken Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007, then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Welch, right, waves as he walks with Abbas aide Rafiq Husseini, second right, upon his arrival for meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, at his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Palestinian officials are rallying around Husseini, a top aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, after a video showing him in the nude in a compromising situation was broadcast on Israeli TV. However, a prominent Palestinian journalist urged Husseini to resign and Abbas' Fatah movement promised to look into possible impropriety.

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Associated Press

continues to be dogged by the perception that some of its leading officials pursue personal gain and pleasure over the national good.

Abbas, who is traveling in the Far East and is due back in the West Bank on Monday, has not commented.

Other Abbas aides rallied around Husseini, saying he would stay on as Abbas' chief of staff for now.

Husseini has not appeared in public since the video was broadcast by Israel's Channel 10 TV in a report that also included allegations of high-level financial wrongdoing.

The erudite, British-educated Husseini, who has often served as the point man for explaining the Palestinian cause to foreign audiences, was expected to appear on a current affairs program on Palestine TV on Friday evening, according to the station. □

US: Attack on Afghan town Marjah launched

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press Writers

NEARMARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) — Helicopter-borne U.S. Marines and Afghan troops swooped down on the Taliban-held town of Marjah before dawn on Saturday, launching a long-expected attack to re-establish government control and undermine support for the militants in their southern heartland.

The attack on Marjah climaxed the biggest joint Afghan-international offensive of the war and is the largest combat operation since President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 U.S. reinforcements here last December to turn the tide of the war. Marine commanders say they expect between 400 to 1,000 insurgents to be holed up inside this southern Afghan town of 80,000 people in Helmand province, including more than 100 foreign fighters. Marjah is the biggest southern town under Taliban control and the linchpin of the militants' logistical and opium-smuggling network.

"The first wave of choppers has landed inside Marjah. The operation has begun," said Capt. Joshua Winfrey, commander of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, which was at the forefront of the attack.

Several hundred U.S. Marines and some Afghan troops were in the first wave of troops, flying over minefields the militants are believed to have planted around the town, 360 miles southwest of Kabul.

The operation, codenamed "Moshtarak," or Together, was described as the biggest joint offensive of the Afghan war. Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, the commander of NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, says 15,000 troops were involved, including some 7,500 troops fighting in Marjah and British forces to the north in the district of Nad Ali.

The helicopter assault was preceded by illumination flares which were fired over the town about 2 a.m. In the pitch darkness of a moonless night, the roar of helicopters could be heard overhead,

flying in assault troops from multiple locations.

The white flash of Hellfire and Tow missiles could be seen exploding over the town as flares illuminated the darkness to help assault troops spot targets in the town. Once the town is secured, NATO hopes to rush in aid and restore public services in a bid to win support among the estimated 125,000 people who live in Marjah and surrounding villages. The Afghans' ability to restore those services is crucial to the success of the operation and to preventing the Taliban from returning. Tribal elders have pleaded for NATO to finish the operation quickly and spare civilians — an appeal that offers some hope the townspeople will cooperate with Afghan and international forces once the Taliban are gone.

At the Pentagon, a senior U.S. official said Afghan president Hamid Karzai had signed off on the attack.

Another defense official said Karzai had been informed of planning for the operation well in advance. The official said it marked a first in terms of both sharing information prior to the attack and planning collaboration with the Afghan government. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because there were not authorized to speak publicly. The second official said the number of Afghan security forces in the district have roughly doubled since Obama's first infusion of some 10,000 Marines in southern Afghanistan last year.

The Marjah offensive involves close combat in extremely difficult terrain, that official said. A close grid of wide canals dug by the United States as an aid project decades ago make the territory a particularly rich agricultural prize, but complicate the advance of U.S. forces.

On the eve of the attack, cars and trucks jammed the main road out of Marjah on Friday as hundreds of civilians defied militant orders and fled the area ahead of the assault. For weeks, U.S. commanders had signaled their intention

to attack Marjah in hopes that civilians would seek shelter.

U.S. soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, walk past closed shops during a patrol West of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. This unit is operating in support of a planned U.S. Marine offensive against the Taliban in Marjah area.

Associated Press



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Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, pictured in January 2010, on state television Friday dissolved parliament and dismissed the electoral commission because of a crisis sparked by alleged fraud by the commission's head.

Photo by Sia Kambou

Ivory Coast president dissolves govt

MARCO CHOWN OVED

Associated Press Writer

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)

— Ivory Coast's president dissolved the government and disbanded the election commission late Friday, throwing into doubt the political reconciliation process in a divided country that was about to hold elections.

"The government is dissolved," President Laurent Gbagbo announced in a recorded message broadcast on national

television, specifying that Prime Minister Guillaume Soro will be asked to stay on to form a new government.

The move comes two months after the government last failed to hold presidential elections to either re-elect or replace Gbagbo whose term expired five years ago. A date for the election has been set — and then canceled — every year since 2005.

Tension rose this past week after Gbagbo's party demanded the resignation of the head of the independent election commission amid accusations he was behind an attempt to add almost 500,000 illegitimate voters onto the rolls.

Opposition supporters, meanwhile, accuse the ruling party of trying to disqualify voters that are not allied with Gbagbo.

On Thursday, representatives

of the political factions attended a negotiation session in Ouagadougou, the capital of neighboring Burkina Faso, but could not agree on whether Robert Beugre Mambe, the head of the election commission, should step down.

In his recorded statement, Gbagbo said he was disbanding the election commission. "Mr. Mambe is running an illegal operation," Gbagbo said. "I want a government that serves the interests of the Ivorian people and not the orders of political parties."

"The mission of this new government will be, under the authority of the president and the prime minister, to complete the final actions necessary to bring Ivory Coast out of its political crisis," Gbagbo said.

The now-defunct government was the fruit of a peace agreement signed by Gbagbo's

government and the New Forces rebels in 2007 following a civil war that had split the world's No. 1 cocoa producer into a rebel-held north and a government-controlled south. The unity government was composed of 33 ministers from all political parties and rebel factions.

Whether this means the country's tense political situation will dissolve back into civil war is yet to be seen, said Rinaldo Depagne, a West Africa analyst at the International Crisis Group. A hopeful sign is that Soro, the former leader of the rebels, has been asked to stay on.

"For the time, the Gbagbo-Soro alliance holds," said Depagne. "But two questions remain: Will Soro be able to form an acceptable government? And how will the opposition react?" □

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DAY OF MOURNING

Continued from Front Page

Parishioners filled churches in Port-au-Prince's Petionville suburb and set up loudspeakers so those in the streets could follow. Others stood on debris that used to be a Catholic Church and an evangelical church to remember victims anonymously buried in mass graves outside the devastated capital, Port-au-Prince.

People raised their hands to the heavens as they sang. Hymns and gospel music pumped throughout the city's apocalyptic landscape of flattened concrete and buildings uprooted at strange angles from their foundations. "All families were affected by this tragedy and we are celebrating the memory of the people we lost," said one mourner, Desire Joseph Dorsaintvil.

Those killed in the Jan. 12 quake included church leaders, missionaries and children studying at faith-based schools. The Roman Catholic archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Joseph Serge Miot, was among those who perished.

Many Port-au-Prince church landmarks were destroyed, including the Roman Catholic Cathedral; the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Haiti's oldest, and the iconic

Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, with its murals of a black Christ, black Virgin Mary and black disciples painted by great Haitian artists in the 1950s.

Only part of a mural depicting the baptism of Christ, by Castera Bazile.

More than 1 million people have been left homeless, with aid agencies rushing to provide shelter before the rains come. Some Haitians have been asking if God has abandoned their country, the world's first black republic, founded in 1804 following a slave rebellion. But one Catholic leader blamed nature.

"Nature may be hostile to man, but God will not leave us alone," Monsignor Joseph Lafontant said.

At the morning service Friday, chief Voodoo priest Max Beauvoir told the congregation the earthquake was a time to unify all faiths. He praised those who lost their lives and, referring to the Voodoo belief in reincarnation, declared: "People never die, souls never die."

A woman sang a song honoring the snake spirit, Dambala, which represents rebirth.

Since the quake, some Voodoo followers have converted to Christianity, some enticed by steady aid flows through

evangelical missions, others out of a fear of God.

"The earthquake scared me," said Veronique Malot, a 24-year-old who joined an evangelical church two weeks ago when she found herself living in one of the city's many outdoor camps.

"Voodoo has been in my family but the government isn't helping us. The only people giving aid are the Christian churches."

Voodoo evolved in the 17th century when the French brought slaves to Haiti from West Africa. Slaves forced to practice Catholicism remained loyal to their African spirits in secret by adopting Catholic saints to coincide with African spirits.

Today, many practice both religions in tandem.

Since the quake, Scientologists, Mormons, Baptists, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses and other



Haiti's President Rene Preval, second from left, wipes his tears as he attends a national day of mourning ceremony along with his wife Elisabeth Debrosse Preval and Haiti's Prime Minister Jean Max Bellerive, left, in Port-au-Prince, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. Thousands of people gathered one month after the deadly magnitude-7 quake that left the Caribbean country struggling for survival.

Associated Press

missionaries have flocked to Haiti in droves — feeding the homeless, treating the injured and preaching the Gospel in squalid camps where some 1

million people now live. In many of them, trucks with loudspeakers blast evangelical music while missionaries talk to families under tarps. □

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Polanski's new film makes debut in Berlin

By GEIR MOULSON,
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — Roman Polanski missed his own party, but was still the center of attention Friday as his first movie in five years made its debut at the Berlin film festival.

"The Ghost Writer," based on a novel by Robert Harris, stars Pierce Brosnan as a former British prime minister, Olivia Williams as his wife and Ewan McGregor as a ghost writer hired to complete his memoirs on a rainswept island off the U.S. east coast.

The movie, Polanski's first since "Oliver Twist" in 2005, was near-complete by the time he was arrested in Switzerland in September, producer Robert Benmussa said — leaving him confident that it would be ready as planned for the Berlin festival.

"Roman continued to work on the film through courier packages that we sent to him in prison through his Swiss

lawyer," Benmussa told reporters ahead of its world premiere. "Then, when he was in his chalet, he continued to work on the movie, putting the last touches."

Polanski is under house arrest at his chalet in Gstaad, awaiting a Swiss decision on whether to extradite him to the U.S. to face possible further sentencing in a 32-year-old sex case.

He has been trying to resolve his U.S. case in absentia for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. Polanski fled the U.S. on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be formally sentenced.

"Not having Roman at the center of this podium seems very strange for all of us," Benmussa said.

Harris, who wrote the screenplay along with Polanski, said the director had been keen to make a thriller, changing gears after his

previous films, "The Pianist" and "Oliver Twist."

He wanted "to do another 'Chinatown'-like movie where the plot gradually unfolds, and I think that that above all was what drew him to it," Harris said. "He wanted to tell a story, and his greatest insult, I discovered, was 'an arthouse movie.'"

Brosnan's character, Adam Lang — a former leader dogged by allegations of authorizing the illegal seizure of suspected terrorists — has unmistakable parallels with Tony Blair.

Harris said he had thought for 15 years of writing about a former leader's relationship with a ghost writer; and a 2006 report that Blair might face efforts to prosecute him for war crimes helped provide the scenario for his book, "The Ghost."

"The Ghost Writer" is one of 20 films competing for the Berlin festival's top Golden



British actors Olivia Williams and Ewan McGregor pose at the photo call for the film 'The Ghost Writer' at the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. The film's director, Roman Polanski, is absent from the festival as he remains under house arrest at his chalet in Switzerland.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan)

Bear honor, being awarded Feb. 20.

Polanski's team portrayed the director as a perfectionist who involved himself with every aspect of the movie, filmed on two German islands — Sylt and Usedom — and at the Babelsberg studio outside Berlin.

"Polanski uses the weather like another oppressive character in the film — it's always raining, it's always gray and damp," McGregor said.

"He'd like to be the props man, the set painter, the actors, the sound man, the cameraman — he puts his print on everything," he said. □



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Stocks swoon after China brakes lending again

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**
and **TIM PARADIS,**
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Stocks skidded Friday after China said for the second time in a month it would force its banks to slow down their lending.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 125 points in morning trading after China said it would require banks to increase reserve levels. That would limit the amount they can lend.

Chinese regulators are trying to contain rapid economic growth to prevent speculative investment bubbles there. The surprising move comes a day after a tame inflation report raised hopes that China wouldn't have to further tighten its monetary policy.

A similar action nearly a month ago by China spooked the market and helped start a slide that has brought major indexes down for four straight weeks. As of late morning the Dow was trading just above 10,000 and barely in the black for the week.

Concerns about debt problems in European countries like Greece, Spain and Portugal, as well as President Barack Obama's push for new regulations on banks also weighed on the market and increased volatility in recent weeks.

On Thursday, European Union leaders pledged to provide Greece with support as it tries to bring its debt problems under control. There has been concern that debt problems there could spread and destabilize Europe's common currency, the euro.

The mood soured further after a disappointing report on consumer sentiment. The preliminary Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index for February fell to 73.7 from 74.4 in January and was weaker than forecast.

In midmorning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 126.89, or 1.3 percent, to 10,017.30. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 12.21, or 1.1 percent, to 1,066.26, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 17.34, or 0.8 percent, to 2,160.07.

The slide Friday follows a strong performance a day earlier after European leaders said they would help Greece with its debt problems. The Dow jumped 1.1 percent Thursday, while the S&P 500 rose 1 percent and the Nasdaq composite index gained 1.4 percent.

With investors pulling out of riskier assets like stocks and commodities Friday, safe-haven investments like the dollar and Treasury bonds

rallied.

The dollar rose against other major currencies. Gold and oil both fell. □

FILE - In this Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010 file photo, traders Richard Newman, left, and Albert Young work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures are falling Friday, Feb. 12, after China said for the second time in a month it would force banks to increase their reserve levels.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)



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IOC confirms Olympic luger dies after crash

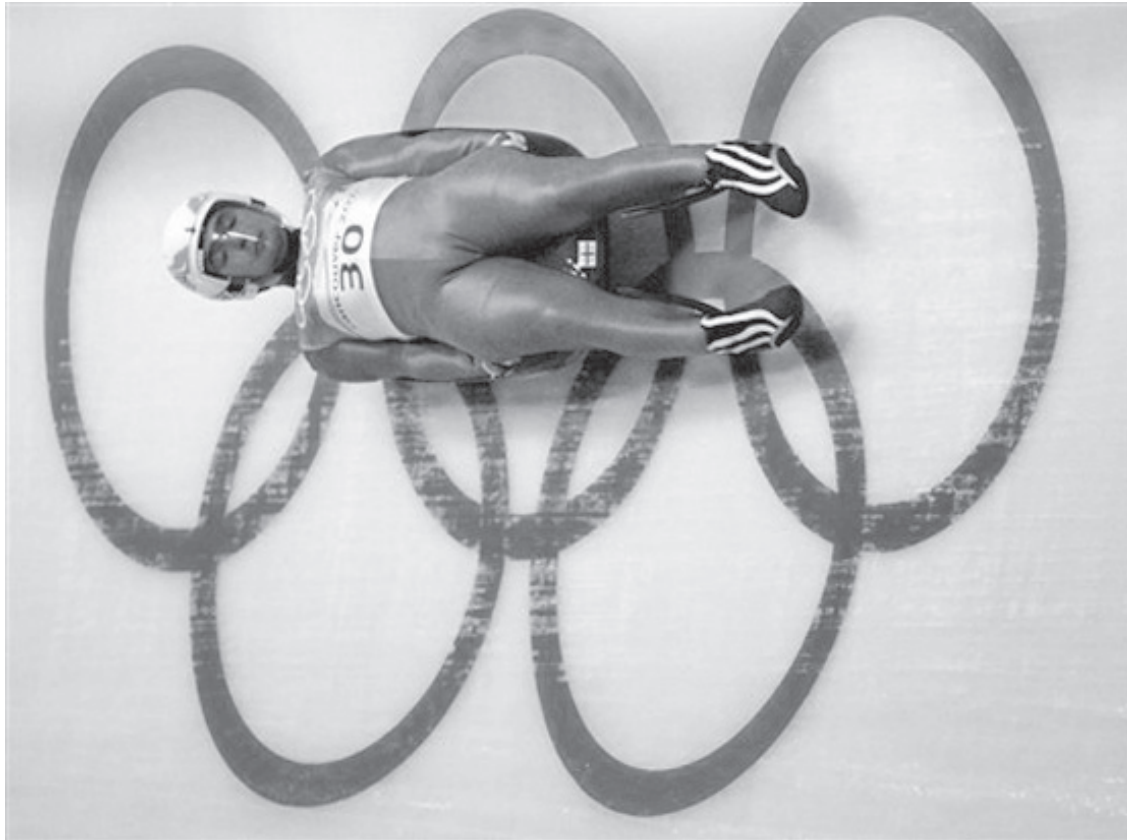
STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — A Georgian men's Olympic luger died Friday after a high-speed crash during training. IOC president Jacques Rogge said the death hours before the opening ceremony "clearly casts a shadow over these games."

Nodar Kumaritashvili lost control of his sled, went over the track wall and struck an unpadded steel pole near the finish line at Whistler Sliding Center. Doctors were unable to revive the 21-year-old luger, who died at a hospital, the International Olympic Committee said.

Rescue workers were at his side within seconds, chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation started less than one minute after the crash, and he was quickly



Nodar Kumaritashvili of Georgia practices during a men's singles luge training run at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010. Kumaritashvili died after crashing during a training run on Friday.

airlifted to a trauma center in Whistler.

"The whole Olympic family is struck by this tragedy which clearly casts a shadow over these games," IOC president Jacques Rogge said.

"Here you have a young athlete that lost his life in pursuing his passion," Rogge added at a news conference.

"He had a dream to participate in the Olympic Games. He trained hard and he had this fatal accident. I have no words to say what we feel."

Rogge said he was in contact with both Kumaritashvili's family and officials from the Georgian government. Georgia's Olympic committee was deciding whether to remain in the games, Rogge said.

An investigation into the crash was started quickly.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 15

Giants, Lincecum reach \$23M, 2-year deal

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Tim Lincecum and the San Francisco Giants reached a preliminary agreement on a \$23 million, two-year contract ahead of the scheduled start of an arbitration hearing.

The two-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner had been set to ask for an arbitration-record \$13 million salary for 2010 during a hearing Friday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Lincecum gets a \$2 million signing bonus, \$8 million this year, \$13 million in 2011 and the chance to earn performance and award bonuses. The agreement is subject to a physical.

The tiny guy his teammates call "Franchise" and "Freak" is getting his nice raise from his \$650,000 salary last year.

In addition to his salary, he would earn \$200,000 for pitching 225 innings, a figure he reached in each of his two full seasons. He would get \$500,000 for each Cy Young Award, \$250,000 for second, \$100,000 for third, \$75,000 for fourth and \$50,000 for fifth. He also would get \$100,000 each time he's an All-Star, \$100,000 for NL MVP, \$75,000 for World Series MVP and \$50,000 for league championship series MVP.

The 25-year-old right-hander said last week he thought the Giants might bring up his offseason marijuana arrest in Washington state during a hearing, but insisted there would be no hard feelings. He was hoping for a multiyear deal to stay put in San Francisco.



This has to be a big relief for both sides heading into the start of spring training next week in Scottsdale, Ariz. The Giants offered their ace \$8 million when the parties exchanged numbers last month, and there was thought they might have lost and had to pay him even more come 2011. Lincecum, who is eligible for free agency after the 2013 season, said he realized through the process there's a tough business side to all this.

A message left for Lincecum on Friday morning wasn't immediately returned.

"Going to arbitration, everybody knows what can happen and the feelings that can get hurt," he said last week. "I'm just trying to keep an open mind. If anybody knows my flaws, I do. If they're going to point them out and that has to happen, then whatever. I know I've got to get better. I don't feel like my feelings are hurt."

Lincecum, already a two-time All-Star, owns a 40-17 record and 2.90 ERA with 676 strikeouts in three big league seasons.

Frank Thomas announces retirement after 19 seasons

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

CHICAGO — Frank Thomas has announced his retirement following a 19-season career in which he hit 521 homers and won two American League MVP awards with the Chicago White Sox. The Big Hurt made the announcement Friday. Considering he didn't play last season, the news was hardly shocking. With his power and ability to hit for a high average, Thomas figures to land in the Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible. A five-time All-Star who batted .301, Thomas is tied for 18th with Ted Williams and Willie McCovey on baseball's home run list while driving in 1,704 runs.

NHL Roundup

Senators edge Capitals

OTTAWA (AP)—The Ottawa Senators' hot form continued as they inflicted successive defeats on the NHL-leading Washington Capitals with a 6-5 win on Thursday.

Chris Phillips and Alex Kovalev scored in the third period, and Jason Spezza had a goal and two assists in the first as Ottawa won for the 13th time in 14 games.

Chris Neil, Milan Michalek and Daniel Alfredsson also scored for the Senators, up 3-1 after the first.

Alexander Semin scored a hat trick for the Capitals, who also got goals from Tomas Fleischmann and Jeff Schultz.

Sharks 3, Red Wings 2, SO

In Detroit, Patrick Marleau scored the lone goal in a shootout to lift San Jose over Detroit.

Sharks goalie Evgeni Nabokov made a career-high 50 saves for the Western Conference leaders.

Joe Thornton and Dwight Helminen scored in regulation for the Sharks while Johan Franzen and Jason Williams netted for Detroit.

Stars 3, Flames 1

In Calgary, rookie Jamie Benn scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period as Dallas downed Calgary.

Marty Turco made 33 saves, and Mike Ribeiro scored twice for Dallas, tying the game with a power-play goal late in the second and securing the victory with an empty-netter directly off a faceoff.

Jarome Iginla scored his 25th goal of the season for the Flames.

In Sunrise, Florida, Roberto Luongo made 31 saves for his fourth shutout of the season as Vancouver beat Florida.

Alex Burrows and Jannik Hansen scored second-period goals for Vancouver, before Ryan Kesler added a power-play goal in the third for the Canucks, who are 3-3 on their 14-game road trip caused by Vancouver hosting the Olympics.

In Tampa, Florida, Boston brought up its first three-game winning streak in more

than six weeks by overcoming Tampa Bay.

Michael Ryder and Milan Lucic scored two goals apiece and Miroslav Satan also netted for the Bruins.

In other NHL games it was San Jose 3, Detroit 2, SO; Edmonton 3, Los Angeles 2, SO; Ottawa 6, Washington 5; Carolina 4, Buffalo 3,

OT; Boston 5, Tampa Bay 4; Vancouver 3, Florida 0; and Dallas 3, Calgary 1. □

Ottawa Senators' Daniel Alfredsson, center, celebrates his goal with teammates during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Washington Capitals in Ottawa, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010.

Associated Press



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NBA Roundup

Cavaliers match record with 13th straight win

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers matched their franchise record by winning their 13th straight NBA game with a 115-106 victory over the Orlando Magic on Thursday.

It was a clash of the two teams that fought out last season's Eastern Conference finals, and which are on top of the East. Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) jumps to the basket against Orlando Magic forward Mickael Pietrus (20) in the first quarter in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

again this year, but Cleveland has won both head-to-head meetings.

LeBron James had 32 points and 13 assists, again closing out another opponent late in the game as he scored seven points in the final three minutes. Orlando went scoreless for five minutes in the fourth as Cleveland turned a two-point deficit into a 105-98 lead.

The anticipated matchup between Shaquille O'Neal and Dwight Howard never really materialized because both were in foul trouble throughout. Fouls were a problem for both teams as they combined for 43 fouls and 56 free throws.

Spurs 111, Nuggets 92

In Denver, San Antonio never trailed and comfortably beat the bad-shooting Denver Nuggets.

George Hill scored 17 points after starting in place of an injured Tony Parker, while DeJuan Blair also scored 17 points for San Antonio, which snapped a three-game losing streak to Denver dating to last season.

The Spurs, who outshot the Nuggets 53.2 percent to 39.2, were missing Parker, who was sidelined with a left hip flexor strain suffered three days ago during a loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Nuggets were missing their best defensive player, Kenyon Martin, who sat out a second consecutive game because of tendinitis in his left knee.

Nene had 20 points for the Nuggets, who lost for only the fourth time in 28 home games this season. □

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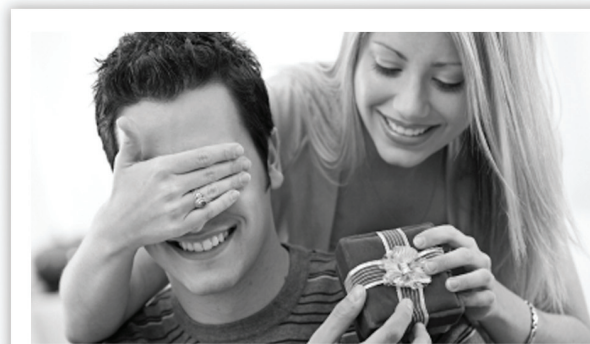
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LUGER DIES

Continued from Page 12

The men's luge competition is scheduled to begin Saturday afternoon, although even officials at the Whistler track said they were uncertain if the schedule would be affected. Kumaritashvili struck the inside wall of the track on the final turn. His body immediately went airborne and cleared the ice-coated concrete wall along the left side of the sliding surface. His sled remained in the track, and it appeared his helmet visor skidded down the ice.

"We are deeply struck by this tragedy and join the IOC in extending our condolences to the family, friends and teammates of this athlete, who came to Vancouver to follow his Olympic dream," said John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver organizing committee.

Olympic competition in men's luge is scheduled to begin Saturday. It's unclear if that schedule would be

affected.

It was Kumaritashvili's second crash during training for the Vancouver Games. He also failed to finish his second of six practice runs, and in the runs he did finish, his average speed was about 140 kph (88 mph) — significantly less than the speed the top sliders are managing on this lightning-fast course.

It was unclear how fast Kumaritashvili was going, although many sliders have exceeded 145 kph (90 mph) on the course. The track is considered the world's fastest and several Olympians recently questioned its safety. More than a dozen athletes have crashed during Olympic training for luge, and some questioned whether athletes from smaller nations — like Georgia — had enough time to prepare for the daunting track.

At the finish area, not far from where Kumaritashvili lost control, athletes, coaches and officials solemnly awaited

word on Kumaritashvili before eventually being ushered away. Access to the crash area was closed within about 30 minutes.

"I've never seen anything like that," said Shiva Keshavan, a four-time Olympian from India.

The remainder of men's training was canceled for the day, with VANOC officials saying in a release that an investigation was taking place to "ensure a safe field of play."

Kumaritashvili competed in five World Cup races this season, finishing 44th in the world standings.

Earlier in the day, gold-medal favorite Armin Zoeggeler of Italy crashed, losing control of his sled on Curve 11. Zoeggeler came off his sled and held it with his left arm to keep it from smashing atop his body. He slid on his back down several curves before coming to a stop and walking away.

Training days in Whistler have been crash-filled.



A Romanian woman was briefly knocked unconscious and at least four Americans have had serious trouble just getting down the track.

"I think they are pushing it a little too much," Australia's Hannah Campbell-Pegg said Thursday night after she nearly lost control in training. "To what extent are we just little lemmings that they just throw down a track and we're crash-test dummies? I mean, this is our lives."

At the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, Nicholas Bochatay of Switzerland died after crashing into a snow grooming machine during

training for the demonstration sport of speed skiing on the next-to-last day of the games. He was practicing on a public slope before his event was to begin.

Australian downhill skier Ross Milne died when he struck a tree during a training run shortly before the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. British luger Kazimierz Kay-Skrzypecki also died in a crash during training in Innsbruck.

At the 1988 Calgary Games, an Austrian team doctor, Jorg Oberhammer, died after being hit by a snow grooming machine. □

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SPORTS

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USA flies to opening win in America's Cup

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

VALENCIA, Spain (AP)—The monster trimaran USA delivered a huge victory for challenger BMW Oracle Racing against two-time defending champion Alinghi of Switzerland in the dramatic first race of their bitter America's Cup showdown on Friday.

Owned by Silicon Valley maverick Larry Ellison and steered by Jimmy Spithill of Australia, the black-and-white USA literally flew over the Mediterranean Sea along the Spanish coast on Friday, powered by a radical, 223-foot



have sailed against each other in the America's Cup, the byproduct of a court fight over rules, dates and the venue between Ellison, the Oracle Corp. CEO, and Swiss biotech mogul Ernesto Bertarelli.

Bertarelli steered Alinghi 5. Ellison hopped off USA and into a chase about 50 minutes before the start, apparently because of weight restrictions and light wind. Ellison watched the race with syndicate CEO Russell Coutts, then jumped aboard USA for the ride back into the harbor. Coutts, a three-time America's Cup winner, has said he won't sail unless his presence somehow makes USA go faster. After Friday's performance, it looks fast enough. "The difference was the speed of boats," Alinghi skipper Brad Butterworth said. "The solution they have come up with on Oracle is very fast. It's pretty hard to beat them on a day like today."

Each of the powerhouse sailing teams made a mistake in the dramatic first few minutes. USA zoomed into the starting box with its windward and center hulls out of the water, on favored starboard tack, and Spithill steered straight at Alinghi 5. The Swiss wanted to sail in front of USA, but didn't have enough speed and both boats had to tack. USA raised a protest flag, and the umpire in a trailing boat concurred, penalizing the Swiss and sticking them with a 270-degree turn. Spithill somehow stalled USA over the line early with less than 15 seconds before the starting gun, and Alinghi 5 sprinted off the line ahead. USA had to go back and restart, leaving it 660 meters behind. USA's wing sail worked like the syndicate hoped it would and the Americans slowly overtook Alinghi 5 as the boats sailed into the wind. USA led by 3:21 at the windward mark. Sailing with the wind on the 20-mile run to the finish, USA opened a lead of more than two miles. The fastest, most technologically advanced boats in the 159-year history of the America's Cup, they hit approximately 22 knots in just 6 or 7 knots of wind. □

American BMW Oracle BOR 90, right, sails to win the first race of the 33rd America's Cup against Swiss defender Alinghi 5, left, off Valencia, Spain, on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010.

Associated Press

wing sail.

USA recovered from a blunder at the start to rout the equally immense catamaran Alinghi 5. The original margin was 10 minutes, 5 seconds, but Alinghi apparently bungled a 270-degree penalty turn at the finish and had to redo it. The official margin was 15:28, with the finish coming just before dusk on a cold, clear day.

BMW Oracle Racing, sponsored by San Francisco's Golden Gate Yacht Club, is one win away from bringing the America's Cup back to the United States for the first time since Dennis Conner lost it to Team New Zealand in 1995.

"To be the America's Cup champion you have to win two races not one. We'll see what happens in two days now," Ellison said of Race 2 on Sunday. "I'm confident in our team. But Alinghi has got a great team and it's all on — on Sunday — and knowing that team they're going to be working extra hard."

With its windward and middle hulls flying out of the air, USA provided a thrilling start to a regatta that had been stalled by a bitter, 2½-year court fight between two of the world's richest men.

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Aboard the Jolly Pirates

Janet and Tim Matthews take the Plunge!



PALM BEACH - After 27 years of marriage, Tim proposed once again to wife Janet and sealed the deal one more time with a sloppy kiss and his emotional pirate - promise to be true, during the light-hearted vow renewals which were performed by Jolly Pirates, Captain Ron. In keeping with the Jolly

Pirates Ship's tradition, the Sweethearts from Hickory, N.C. exchanged the ship's life rings. Jim's sister-in-law, Sally Klebba provided many heartfelt congratulations, a bridal veil and more importantly a wedding cake to share with the day's pirate enthusiasts who customarily raised their cups of the ship's

signature brew to toast the happy couple.



Adding nautical nuptials aboard a Jolly Pirates adventure is a sentimental and light-hearted way to add some romance to your snorkel or sunset sail. Just ask Sally Klebba, who each year for more than a decade is a month - long repeat guest and owner at the Costa Linda Resort. It was at Sally's suggestion that the wheels were set in motion for her brother Tim Matthews to surprise his wife Janet with a re-wedding, vow renewal ceremony aboard the popular teak Schooner. No stranger to the Jolly Pirates Crew, it is not uncommon for Sally to join her "jolly" family several days each week for the month visit she visits.

And so while the splendid

pirate ship was moored at Boca Catalina, a scenic cove on Aruba's northwest coast, Sally stood beside her brother Tim and wife Janet when they said their "I Do's" for the second time after 27 years of marriage.

There is no charge for a Jolly Pirates vow renewal ceremony, which can be conducted during any of the Jolly Pirate cruises offered. Renewals can be requested onboard or in advance when making your reservation for your trip.

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Agreement reached on Joint Police Service

~ Joint Central Bank still on table ~



WILLEMSTAD--No super or centralised Kingdom Police Force will be established to oversee the new Police Forces of Country St. Maarten, Country Curaçao and the Dutch public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands). Instead, the Joint Police Service will provide assistance to the new entities where necessary, with manpower, skills or technology. This decision made by the Kingdom Political Steering Group (PSG) for Constitutional Affairs on Thursday is a "breakthrough," St. Maarten's Leader of Government Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin

said after the meeting in Curaçao. A list of areas that will fall under Kingdom supervision was also worked out in Thursday's meeting which has been described as "very fruitful" and "successful." Areas such as good governance, finance and justice are on the list. In addition, the meeting agreed that St. Maarten and Curaçao would continue to pursue the setting-up of a joint Central Bank and would have a joint currency – not the US dollar. In keeping with the decision on the Joint Police Service, the two new countries and the BES public entities that will come into existence on 10-10-10 with the completion of the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles will have the right to request assistance from the Joint Police Service when required. "We don't need to have all the

expertise within our own Police Force because we can tap into the Joint Police Service for what is necessary," Marlin said. Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Justice Minister Magali Jacoba, Commissioner Marlin and Curaçao Constitutional Affairs Commissioner Zita Jesus-Leito participated in the PSG meeting and signed off on the decision for the Joint Police Service. This agreement was reached in less than four hours and was signed while the sun was still out in the sky – a rarity, compared with past PSG meetings. Marlin emphasised this fact by saying that when it had been said in the past that an agreement had been signed at 4:00 o'clock, it often meant in the

morning, not in the afternoon. The issue of the Joint Police Service was a sticking point in the PSG meeting held in St. Maarten in December 2009. Parties walked away then without a decision on how to proceed. Marlin said the finding of common ground in a few hours was testimony to the process "nearing the end," adding, "Many hurdles have been cleared." "We have made the agreements and now it is about working out the details," he said. "We couldn't find each other [in an agreement] in December, but we are here now." Now that the firm decision has been taken on the Joint Police Service, it still has to be seen how this will fit into the application of the consensus Kingdom Law on Justice and the Police. On the issue of Kingdom supervision, originally St. Maarten and Curaçao had to pass a test of readiness in order to assume the responsibilities of countries within the Kingdom, but this was before a date (10-10-10) for the attainment of this status was set. Now that a date is in place, partners have agreed that this test will not be across the board, but will cover predetermined areas, because St. Maarten in particular will not have all of its services and departments associated with being a country up and running. This deficit is not due to St. Maarten's negligence. Unlike Curaçao, which will inherit the infrastructure of the Central Government with the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles, St. Maarten has to build many of its departments and agencies from scratch. The areas to be under Kingdom supervision will be overseen for two years, during which time the new countries will prepare to take over fully. Decisions regarding these areas will be made by the Dutch Minister and State Secretary for Kingdom Relations and the minister responsible in St. Maarten or Curaçao, depending on the case.

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Atacho presents 'Declaration of Willingness' to Governor



WILLEMSTAD--Informateur Pedro Atacho completed his rounds of exploratory talks related to the formation of the new and last Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles in Aruba on Thursday, with Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman giving his support for the continued dismantling of the Antilles. Atacho's job as Informateur ended Friday, when he handed in to Governor Frits Goedgedrag the "Declaration of Willingness" signed by parties that won one or more seats in the January 22 Parliamentary Elections and have signalled their willingness to work together to form the new Central Government that is to take office in March together with what is to be the last Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles. It is expected that the

government formation will be wrapped up in St. Maarten during the week of February 17. However, Atacho is yet to make this official. The new government is expected to be headed by incumbent Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage (PAR), with the National Alliance of St. Maarten as one of the coalition partners. Atacho told The Daily Herald Thursday that his trip to Aruba had been a success, with both the Parliament and the Council of Ministers of that island giving their support to the ongoing dismantling. Aruba's support is critical, because it also will have to approve the changes to the Kingdom Charter that will see the new Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten established within the Dutch Kingdom, come 10-10-10. Atacho also will propose that

the new Antillean Central Government set a date with Aruba for a meeting of the Council of Ministers of Cooperation to review the existing cooperation agreement between the two countries. This agreement covers services such as meteorology, aviation, Capriles Clinic,

the National Lottery and the Youth Correctional Facility GOG, among others. The two countries usually meet yearly to review the financial statements for these services. An inventory of all the laws the Antilles and Aruba have to approve simultaneously will also be on the agenda

when the representatives of the two countries meet. Other "good news" from the Aruba visit is the willingness of Prime Minister Eman to initiate talks on a new joint cooperation agreement for Aruba with soon-to-be Countries St. Maarten and Curaçao, Atacho said. □

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HUMAN HINTS

Timing and Manifestation

When we focus on the thought and feeling of the future we want, we affect the timing of our lives. One way we create our reality is through timing in the three dimensional world.

Obvious examples of life's

timing are winning the lottery or meeting the right people who can provide exactly what you need at the time. These are manifestations of an infinite and perfect system of fluid timing. Life takes infinite synchronization.

Life is a dynamic system. What seems to be the most negligible, meaningless variable can dramatically alter the future. This is especially true for variables in our thoughts, since our three dimensional reality is a reflection of what is in our mind. A slight change of attitude can make a huge difference in our lives.

Throughout the day we are influenced by tiny, seemingly meaningless things that change our thoughts and emotions from one moment to the next. This is one way that timing steers us through the course of a day. If we get bad news when we're already in a bad mood, we might react differently than if we get the same bad news while we're in a good mood. During a bad day, we'll probably react more emotionally, and are more prone to rash action,

which only hurts us. Lack of negative emotional reaction will help us find a solution more easily and quickly than when we react from emotion.

This is one of the many ways that our lives reinforce our beliefs. When we're in a bad mood, we tend to see the bad in things and emphasize the negative of a situation. The opposite is true when we're in a good mood and things are going our way.

We see the good in things and situations, and the way toward positive change is more clear and obvious.

This is why it is so important to keep a positive outlook on the future, no matter how dismal it may seem. When you are open to change, you will see your options. The more negative your thoughts, the harder it is to see the options that are right

in front of you, and the easier it is to find excuses for why you will never escape.

As with all aspects of manifestation, the bottom line is knowing that your future will bring whatever your mind stays focused on.

When you know your future will be great, you are more relaxed in your present life. You know that every decision and action you make brings you closer to the life of your choice. You know that your future is limited only by your own thoughts. You know that you are the master of your own destiny, so you think carefully about your future and what you want it to hold.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and been in the audience of new age channels. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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The teachers at Washington wish everyone a safe and wonderful Carnival weekend. □

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
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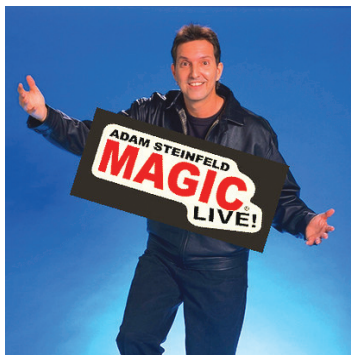
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SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live! Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1

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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes! Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret. Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR. SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

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LOUIS VUITTON has Love Charms



ORANJESTAD --Winged Heart Charm in yellow gold and multicolored sapphires. Now that the holidays are over we need to remind our lovers that Valentine's Day is not far away.

Here are some ideas for that special someone in your life. I love charm bracelets they are kind of like a collector's items for me. I buy a new charm in every city I have visited to remind me of my travels. To celebrate Valentine's Day, Louis Vuitton this year presents seven new yellow gold Charms. The collection plays with proportion with

its vibrantly colored array of mini-maxi designs. Among the highlights are a rock'n' roll winged heart paved with multicolored sapphires, and a large heart in fluorescent pink lacquer with a delicate gold ribbon. Love Charm bracelet by Louis Vuitton

A photo frame opens, ready to display a photo and a romantic word, while the ultimate message of love is hidden in a bottle Charm to be cast into the sea. Bottle Charm in yellow gold and blue lacquer.

I Love You Notebook Charm in yellow gold and

pink lacquer Heart Charm in yellow gold and pink lacquer. A typewriter in yellow gold and diamonds, a notebook and a pen Charm in gold and bright red lacquer complete the collection.

There are Seven different messages of love that can be added to the Charm bracelet, or hung on a pendant. Creating a special gift for someone special in your life seven different ways!

If you are looking for something else, it is really a fact that Louis Vuitton

always made creative items by the classical legendary Monogram pattern, no matter what they are Louis Vuitton handbags, or Louis Vuitton watches. Just like the Tambour Diving Lady Watch with dazzling red color.

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Committee to review St. Maarten's help list

WILLEMSTAD -- A committee will be established to review the financial and manpower assistance St. Maarten needs from the Dutch Government. The decision was made outside of Thursday's Kingdom Political Steering Group meeting in Curaçao. Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin told The Daily Herald that there is now more understanding for St. Maarten's unique position because, unlike Curaçao, it will not inherit much of the infrastructure from the Central Government. Marlin met with Dutch State Secretary for Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten and Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage on the matter of assistance promised on Wednesday evening but not much was decided until Thursday during one of the breaks in the political steering

group talks in the World Trade Center, Curaçao. A list of areas in which St. Maarten will require Dutch help has been drafted based on the June 24, 2009 assistance agreement between St. Maarten and the Dutch Government.

However, the Dutch need more clarity on the "scope of the assistance" required by St. Maarten, thus the formation of the committee that will comprise representatives of both partners. The committee, according to Marlin, will "outline the priorities and figure out how to proceed" with the assistance needed. The committee will not be presenting any report in the coming weeks because it is expected that from their findings, the necessary assistance will be clearly outlined so it can be rendered to St. Maarten without delay.

Readiness

Marlin is confident that the process will now accelerate to the point where the needs on paper are met with tangible help, because St. Maarten will not be able to have all departments and agencies associated with a fully fledged country ready in time for 10-10-10, the date for country status. Marlin said areas such as Maritime Affairs Department will not be established on St. Maarten as it is in the Netherlands Antilles. Instead, someone in government will be

tasked with overseeing that maritime affairs services are provided adequately by the company or entity it is outsourced to based on a service level agreement. Unlike maritime affairs, where the island will get the responsibility but outsource to work, St. Maarten is almost ready to accept the responsibility for and to carry out the task of Public Health, the commissioner said. "Everything is almost in place to take over this responsibility." Similarly, St. Maarten is wasting no time in the establishment of its Security

Service although this is one task that will only come to the island at the very end of the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the birth of country St. Maarten. Three people have already been identified within the Antilles service and outside of it to be part of St. Maarten service in October. The Education Department is also readying for the take-on of additional responsibility, according to Marlin. Two education inspectors and three officers for compulsory education have been employed by the island. □



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Reina niña y estrellas de EEUU iluminarán carnaval en Brasil

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters)

- La reina de Carnaval más joven de Río de Janeiro, de sólo 7 años, se prepara para compartir el protagonismo con las divas pop Madonna y Beyonce de cara a la mayor fiesta de Brasil esta semana.

La elección de la pequeña Julia Lira para liderar la sección de tambores de la escuela de samba Viradouro provocó controversia y cuestionamientos legales por parte de un grupo de derechos del niño, que dijo que la menor se arriesga a ser explotada sexualmente. La palabra final quedó en manos de un juez de familia, quien, según medios brasileños, resolvió el miércoles que la niña podía participar en la marcha. La oficina del juez declinó a realizar comentarios.

Si se lo permiten, la pequeña Julia bailará a través del Sambódromo el domingo después de medianoche, recibiendo los vítores de miles de fans y celebridades, entre las que se espera que figuren Madonna, que ha sido



Imagen de archivo de una participante del carnaval en la parada de Ipanema en Río de Janeiro. Ene 30, 2010. La reina de Carnaval más joven de Río de Janeiro, de sólo 7 años, se prepara para compartir el protagonismo con las divas pop Madonna y Beyonce de cara a la mayor fiesta de Brasil esta semana. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos/Archivo

fotografiada en Río junto a su novio brasileño de 22 años.

En la capital del Carnaval, Río de Janeiro, que tiene razones extras para celebrar tras ser escogida como sede para los Juegos Olímpicos del 2016, máscaras del fallecido ídolo

pop estadounidense Michael Jackson se han vendido en gran cantidad, junto a las de políticos brasileños en un año electoral.

Las cantantes estadounidenses Beyonce y Alicia Keys también están en Brasil para participar

en el festival del hedonismo antes de Cuaresma, que se cree que tiene sus raíces en fiestas de primavera precristianas.

Ambas vistieron disfraces de Carnaval emplumados para grabar videos en una favela de Río el martes y Beyonce abrió las celebraciones en la ciudad nordestina de Salvador el miércoles con una presentación frente a 45.000 personas.

Sin embargo, la diva mucho más joven es la que ha

dominado los titulares previos al Carnaval. La selección de una niña en un rol interpretado usualmente por modelos de taco alto y poca ropa, o por estrellas de televisión de busto prominente, ha provocado un acalorado debate, con críticos que dicen que la menor es demasiado joven en la marcha extenuante y sexualmente cargada. Las reinas de tambores, escogidas por su aspecto y habilidades de samba, bailan sin parar frente a cientos de tamborileros, vistiendo nada más que un diminuto bikini, un tocado emplumado y tacos altos.

Con Río pasando por su febrero más caluroso en medio siglo, con temperaturas superiores a los 40 grados Celsius, las preocupaciones también se han concentrado en las posibles consecuencias para la salud de la pequeña de siete años. El padre de Julia, Marco Lira, quien también es el presidente de la escuela de samba de Viradouro, ha defendido su selección, asegurando que ella está haciendo lo que quiere y que usará un disfraz diseñado para niños. “Ningún padre quiere exponer a su hija. Ella va a marchar porque se lo merece”, dijo a la prensa el miércoles.

Incertidumbre por Uribe enrarece elecciones en Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - La campaña política por la presidencia de Colombia está inmersa en la incertidumbre por la eventual candidatura de Alvaro Uribe, una situación sin antecedentes que amenaza con debilitar a la que es considerada una de las democracias más sólidas de América Latina.

A un poco más de tres meses de los comicios presidenciales de mayo, la campaña se concentra en tratar de resolver si Uribe podrá y está interesado en buscar su segunda reelección inmediata y extender su Gobierno hasta el 2014.

La Corte Constitucional evalúa la legalidad de un referendo que aprobó el Congreso y que busca habilitar a Uribe para una segunda reelección, mientras que su silencio y actos oficiales, considerados por críticos como de campaña, agudizan la duda.

Uribe tiene un margen estrecho para una segunda reelección debido al poco tiempo, de sólo cinco semanas, que le queda para cumplir el complicado proceso que le permitiría

presentarse y que incluye la aprobación de un referendo por el alto tribunal además de la realización de la consulta con la participación de más de 8 millones de electores, según la autoridad electoral.

Pero promotores del referendo y de la continuidad de Uribe creen que a inicios de abril puede inscribir la candidatura.

“Veo el panorama electoral muy complejo, muy enredado, marcado por una enorme incertidumbre tanto desde el punto de vista de saber quiénes son los candidatos, pero lo que es más grave aún es que no hay y no van a haber unas reglas de juego claras”, dijo a Reuters Elizabeth Ungar, directora ejecutiva de Transparencia por Colombia.

La analista aseguró que aunque no lo admita y legalmente no sea una realidad, los actos de Uribe que incluyen visitas a pueblos y ciudades, entrega de subsidios y órdenes para solucionar problemas, lo involucran en la campaña hasta que públicamente comunique que no será candidato.

Sismo magnitud 6.1 deja daños menores en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 6.1 remeció el jueves la mayor parte de Honduras causando alarma entre la población, daños menores a un centenar de viviendas pero sin dejar víctimas, dijeron organismos de socorro.

El movimiento ocurrió a las 11.56 hora local (1756 GMT), minutos después de un primer sismo de menor intensidad, en la región norte del país, según datos del Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales.

“Tenemos reportes de 101 viviendas con daños menores”, dijo a Reuters Randolph Fúnez, subdirector del organismo estatal de socorro Comisionado Permanente de Contingencias (COPECO). Las casas dañadas se ubican en poblados rurales del norte del país, dijo Fúnez. “Son en su mayoría viviendas campesinas, construidas con barro y madera”, añadió destacando que no hay informes de víctimas. Poco antes se había registrado otro sismo, que en un principio las autoridades dijeron fue de 5.2 grados, pero más tarde revisaron la magnitud a 4.7. El primer movimiento se registró a las 11.43 hora local (1743 GMT) con epicentro en el poblado rural de San Luis, a unos 160 kilómetros al noroeste de Tegucigalpa, y a una profundidad de 38 kilómetros.

Según encuesta

Popularidad Chávez cae en Venezuela, pero todavía sigue alta

CARACAS (Reuters) - La mayoría de los venezolanos aprobó la gestión del presidente Hugo Chávez en enero pese a la grave crisis eléctrica y económica que azota al país petrolero, según un nuevo sondeo, pero el respaldo al mandatario se ha debilitado meses antes de las elecciones legislativas.

Un estudio de la respetada encuestadora IVAD, encargado por el Gobierno y obtenido por Reuters el jueves mostró que un 58,3 por ciento de la población cree que el desempeño de Chávez ha sido bueno, aunque tan sólo un 48 por ciento confía en el presidente socialista.

Pese a ser todavía una cifra muy alta, la popularidad del líder ha ido cayendo paulatinamente según la encuestadora, cuyos sondeos le daban un apoyo del 60,3 en diciembre, menor al 62,4 en octubre y sensiblemente inferior al 71 por ciento que registró en septiembre del 2008.

Al mismo tiempo, la opinión positiva sobre la oposición se ubicó ligeramente por encima del 50 por ciento, mientras que en el estudio del 2008 tan

sólo un 16,5 por ciento de los consultados aprobaba el trabajo de los adversarios de Chávez.

Además, seis de cada 10 venezolanos cree que la situación del país es mala y un 70 por ciento opina que en el 2010 será igual o peor. "Más de tres quintas partes cree que no será eficiente la atención del presidente Chávez a los problemas del país", dijo la encuestadora en su estudio, realizado entre el 12 y el 28 de enero mediante 1.200 entrevistas y con un margen de error del 1,0-2,4 por ciento. Un 46 por ciento le achaca la responsabilidad a él y a su Gobierno por fallas como la inseguridad, crisis eléctrica, desempleo y racionamiento del agua.

Concretamente sobre el problema eléctrico, un 40 por ciento cree que Chávez y el Gobierno tienen la culpa frente a un 26 por ciento que ve el origen del problema en la sequía originada por el fenómeno climatológico El Niño.

Y aunque la mayoría rechaza el racionamiento de luz, también una mayoría cree que el Gobierno podrá solventarlo. □



El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, durante una ceremonia en el palacio Miraflores en Caracas. Feb 10, 2010. REUTERS/Carlos García Rawlins

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